

Subject: On General situation in the Ukraine, 1966/67

Source : W.W. of England

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The following information was obtained from HAYOVSKY, fnu of Ternopol, oblast Ternopol, Ukr SSR who arrived mid-Feb 1967 as a visitor for a four-week-stay with his son Zenon Hayovsky to Manchester, England. Hayovsky is 72-years old former teacher in a village near Chortkiv, oblast Ternopol, Ukrainian, a veteran of the First World War and Ukrainian Liberation War of 1918-1920, and still remembers vividly the campaigns. Now he is retired, and recently moved to Ternopol. His daughter, by his second wife, now teaches English and French in Lvov. He has quite a good memory ~~as~~ for his age, is of average intelligence, in general speaks rather freely though once ~~has~~ asked the Source "Do you think they are watcheing me here? I have children and a grandchild, and I wouldn't want to cause them trouble." The Source is a good friend of Zenon and through ~~him~~ latter he approached Hayovsky senior.

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Hayovsky had some difficulties in getting a visa. It took him 6 years to finally obtain <sup>it</sup> now. It appears that the cause of it all was HAYOVY, fnu, an Eastern Ukrainian in charge of passports insuuing in CHORTKIV. He is a party member and on the whole s.o.b. Hayovsky tried unsuccessfully to get a passport, and wrote everywhere, until one day HAYOVY'S secretary told <sup>him</sup> that the chief would go away ~~for~~ two months. She advised him to renew the efforts, he did, and soon obtained the necessary papers. He assumes that Hayovy wanted a bribe but he was afraid to offer it. Another snag might have been - Hayovsky thought - that his son in Manchester had served with SS Division "Galicia".

H. receives Rubel 63.50 per month pension as a former school teacher.

1. There are some military installations in SKALA, near CHORTKIV, Ternopol oblast, and for this reason the local population hopes to get natural gas soon. There is natural gas in Lvov, Ternopol, Ivanofrankivsk, but Chortkiv and Buchach have been bypassed. This has angered the people, because they know Ukrainian natural gas is piped to Poland, Hungary, and Russia.

2. The economic picture is characterized by much inequality; the top people live in riches, while the little people suffer. This was especially true under last period of Khrushchev when people actually went hungry. At the same time Ukrainian wheat was exported in bags marked "second grade" to show that the first grade allegedly was being consumed in the Soviet Union.

The new government - Brezhnev - Kosygin - is doing everything in its power to raise the standard of living, and is succeeding to a great extent. Now stores are full of clothing, good food etc. There is a shortage of buckwheat groats, because, it is said, the Russians like it and there are quite a few of them in cities. There is also some shortage of shoes and other leather articles, but this should be solved soon, too.

Old-age pension is not sufficient in itself but with goods from household plots (which are not tapped by the government) and some "private" incomes on the side, a person may live. A retired kolhosp member receives Rubel 12 per month, but he has usually a plot with a cow, a pig, and a few chickens. The introduction of old-age pension for kolhospniks was quite a popular move on the part of the government and definitely won much sympathy for the new government. Moreover, that at the same time there appeared plenty of food: meat, fat, lard, butter mixed with margarine. There is also plenty of sugar around, because sugar refinery workers receive extra bonuses in kind.

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On the other hand, kolhospniks do not like being paid in cash what has been now introduced in most collective farms. They don't like it, preferring the old pay in kind, because it has been easier to steal before, and everyone has to steal anyway.

The situation in cities has also improved though it still takes a street cleaner to work a whole day to buy less than two pounds of lard or four pounds of sugar.

Wages and salaries are very "uneven". Following are some current pay scales: Young doctor (MD) --- Rubel 90.-

Skilled laborer ---- " 80.- - 120.-

Locomotive engineer--- " up to 200.-

Street cleaner ---- " 40.-

Medical aid is more than adequate. There are plenty of kolhosp workers in hospitals suffering from arthritis. Medicine is inexpensive and infants receive medicine free.

The villages are all rebuilt and modernized. Thatched roofs are now an exception.

Kolhosp chairmen are mainly local Ukrainians.

Despite "everything", in H's opinion, the Western Ukraine profited in some economic fields. Under the Soviet rule it has developed industrially and many peasants have now higher education.

3. The Russification is rather widespread in the Ukraine. Young people know little about Ukraine's history, the Kievan state, Mazepa, Petlura - " little heard of them", or in a distorted manner *fashion*. H's daughter and son-in-law know less than the son living in Britain, has known, when 14.

The middle generation is about the most promising. They still remember their participation in liberation struggle of WW II and after, help each other out, especially in dangerous situations.

H. feels that all republics in the USSR are colonies. Administration in the Ukraine breaks down as follows: key posts - held by Russians, immigrants into Ukraine; less important posts - by Russians born in the Ukraine and some Ukrainians; lowest positions

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in Western Ukraine - held by Eastern Ukrainians, and only a negligible number of West Ukrainians. There seems to be no West Ukrainian in important sectors. Ukrainian bureaucrats are usually worse than Russians. But West Ukrainian bureaucrats are real pigs. At least where a stationmaster (railroad) is an East Ukrainian, the signs are in Ukrainian, but where a stationmaster is a West Ukrainian all signs, as a rule, are in Russian.

In the spring of 1966 Ukrainian writers and journalists held a meeting in Lvov. They talked about the poor state of Ukrainian language particularly in radio and TV. Iryna VILDE was very outspoken. After the meeting things improved somewhat, and there<sup>are</sup> now more Ukrainian programs. Still, there are many Russians in key positions in these fields,

People are worried about the Russification despite some recent improvements. The only consolation is that there is also some Ukrainization going on mainly among Poles who ~~xxxxxx~~ have stayed behind, and some Russians. H. told, for instance, of his neighbours, a Russian couple in Ternopol, whose children speak ~~andxxxxxx~~ Ukrainian. The parents are happy about it and even joke: "Just look how our little khokhols sing in Ukrainian."

H. praised East Ukrainians as good and fearless people with high principles. He referred to those in West Ukraine.

Young intellectuals hope for a change: "no matter who takes over, as long as we get something of our own". The ferment among young intellectuals is quite strong although a great segment of them is mainly interested in careers and their personal welfare.

4. As to education; things are not too bad in schools. There are few Russians among teachers because pay is not too good. What is bad, is that the bureaucrats, as a rule, are sending their

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children to Russian schools. But on the whole Ukrainian parents are sending their children to Ukrainian schools.

A man by the name CHYPSYSHYN, fnu is a lecturer at Lvov Uni. He was tortured and banished back in 1945 for hitting an MVD man in the face, after the latter punched him. Recently he returned and was rehabilitated.

5. Arrests in Lvov and Ivanofrankivsk in 1965/66 were widely and loudly debated by the people. In the beginning panic spread among the intel igentsia during the arrests. But when the dust settled it was said that the demands <sup>for release</sup> of those arrested were determined and strong. Some fearless types loudly suggested, "How about packing your bags and going back to where you came from." This was directed to the Russians.

In H's view any insubordination in the Ukraine is crushed with an iron hand. People still disappear without trace. No one knows where they are being held or what happens to them. There was, for instance, a case of KRISLATY, fnu, one of two brothers, who were with SS Division Galicia. Both returned to their native village and worked as carpenters. Then someone suggested to one of the brothers that he write a denunciation against one of the local bureacrats. He did, and after a time was arrested and disappeared without a trace.

If there were more freedom the Ukraine would become a true state in a short time, because there is now much to work with. There are a great many professional cadre.

6. People in U<sup>kraine</sup> are <sup>happy</sup> about Soviet-Chinese rift but H. does not know of any pro-Peking faction. Actually, there is not too much expected from the rift, and in some quarters there is even fear, lest the Chinese "come here". Yet the people are happy that the almighty Russians are having difficulties. H. doubts there will be a formation of pro-Peking faction, because "the Muscovites are above all nationalists. Even the international approach is taken

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only when it suits Moscow's interests".

7. Subject read at one time a news item about the Kiev Library Fire. No one was able to find out how the fire started and what was destroyed. But it was suspected that the Russifiers had a hand in it.

8. After Khrushchev's downfall it was widely rumoured that SHELEST had played a leading role in the coup. Allegedly it was SHELEST who had told Khrushchev that he was out and it would be no use to try anything, because even the outside telephone communications had been cut.

9. H's daughter learned at Lvov Uni. that Nina Khrushchev was a native of Western Ukraine, born near BRODY, and that she had left for the USSR in 1920 with her parents.

10. Black market is very much in existence although the authorities are very strict about it. It is possible to buy everything from fabrics to gold rubles on the market. Four years ago two Jews were caught with ten pounds of gold rubles, and were sentenced to 8 years each.

Among the racketeers are often party members, but those that are caught, are dealt with very severely. "A few years" ago a butter racket was discovered in CHORTKIV in which several higher party officials were involved. They disappeared without trace.

11. Underground Catholic Church does exist. It is led by priests who did not convert to Orthodoxy. They hold services secretly in private houses. A priest by the name DMYTERKO, fnu of Kolomyia, Ivanofrahkivska oblast, gave H. some money to buy two prayerbooks abroad, but H. was afraid to get caught with them.

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12. Jews, particularly in places where they live in<sup>a</sup> compact mass, like, for instance, in CHERNIVTSI, are rather disliked by local population. H. told an incident which he claimed to have witnessed himself in Chernivtsi and which in his eyes "only proved" a disdainful attitude of Jews to everything Ukrainian. Two Jewish women were arguing about works of art. They recognized Raphael's "Madonna with Child", but could not recognize Repin's "Zaporozhtsi writing a letter to Sultan". One said, "Oh, it's the khekhly, who have just signed a state loan".

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